

Remarks/Arguments:

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2006.

Claims 1-30 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-30. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 1-30 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-27 of copending Application No. 10/655,713. A Terminal Disclaimer with respect to Application No. 10/655,713 is enclosed with this response.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Narin et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0158709.

Claims 1, 11, and 21 read as follows:

1. A method comprising:

maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses;

accessing a group administration application to set the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and

using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.

11. A license management system comprising:

a memory adapted to store digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with a software licenses; and

a processor adapted to execute a group administration application for setting the access rules for members of a group, the rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group, wherein the access rules are used to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.

21. A computer readable media comprising software to instruct a computer to do the steps of:

maintaining digital records of software licenses for multiple groups, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses;

in response to input to a group administration application, setting the access rules for members of a group, the access rules controlling the access of digital record data of the group by members of the group; and

using the access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data.

The claims include using access rules to determine whether to allow a member of the group to access digital record data, the digital records indicating rights associated with software licenses. This is not shown in the Narin et al. reference. Narin discloses having different levels of access to content but there is no suggestion in Narin that some users be prevented from accessing digital record data rather than prevented from accessing the content protected by the digital record data.

For this reason these claims 1, 11, and 21 are believed to be allowable. Claims 2-10, 12-20, and 22-30 are dependent on these independent claims and for that reason (and because of the additional limitations of these claims), these claims are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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